Therapeutic Abortions Reported By Hospitals in Alberta

For the Year Ended December 31, 1986

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Highlights

- In 1986, 6,295 therapeutic abortions were performed in 21 of 22 Alberta hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees, a decrease of 3.8% from 1985.
- Seven metropolitan hospitals in Calgary and Edmonton performed 83.4% of all abortions in Alberta in 1986, down from 83.8% in 1985.
- Eight hospitals, performing more than 200 abortions each, accounted for 95.1% of the province's therapeutic abortions; 74.8% of all abortions were performed in three of these eight hospitals, with each performing over 400 abortions per year.
- In 1986, the number of therapeutic abortions performed per 1,000 Alberta females, 15 to 44 years of age, was 10.5 and the number per 100 live births was 14.4. The 1985 rates were 11.0 and 14.9, respectively.
- Teenage women accounted for 24.1% of all abortion patients; a further 56.4% were between the ages of 20 and 29 years.
- Single women accounted for 65.8% of therapeutic abortion patients while 18.6% were married and 15.6% separated, divorced, widowed or in common-law arrangements.
- In 1986, women with 12 or less weeks of gestation accounted for 90.1% of all abortions as compared with 91.5% in 1985.
- At least one previous induced abortion was reported by 18.5% of therapeutic abortion patients in 1986 while 7.7% reported at least one previous spontaneous abortion. The 1985 figures were 16.6% and 6.8%, respectively.
- The most frequently used initial procedure was Suction D&C, performed in 74.6% of all abortion cases.
- At least one complication resulting from abortion procedures was reported in 6.0% of the cases, an increase from 4.5% in 1985.
- Subsequent procedures were performed in 5.2% of all abortion cases, up from 3.6% of 1985 and 1984.
- In 1986, 9.7% (610) of the women obtaining abortions were sterilized concurrently with the abortion procedure compared to 1985, 8.9% (583) in 1985.

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents pertinent facts about the women who had therapeutic abortions and the care provided to them in Alberta hospitals during 1986. Specifically, the report includes data related to the following topics, among others: demographic and medical information about the therapeutic abortion patients, the nature of medical procedures used and the consequent complications, and the average annual rates of legal abortion, in relation to the female population and the annual level of live births.

Although the focus is on the current Alberta situation, selected historical provincial and national statistics are provided for comparison and trend analysis. To maintain consistency, the therapeutic abortion data are taken from hospital records reported to Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care as in previous years. Since the data are also reported to Statistics Canada, the overall comparability of provincial and national statistics is enhanced.

THE ABORTION LAW

In 1969, the Parliament of Canada passed the Criminal Code Amendment Act, which legalized the performance of abortions under specific conditions. Chapter C-34, Section 251, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, outlines the conditions which must be satisfied for the legal performance of therapeutic abortions. In summary:

1. the abortion procedure must be carried out by a qualified physician;
2. the qualified physician may not be a member of the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee;
3. the procedure is permitted only in an accredited or an approved hospital, the former consisting of general hospitals accredited by the Canadian Council of Hospital Accreditation and the latter being hospitals approved by the Provincial Minister of Health; and
4. the decision regarding the termination of pregnancy is placed before the hospital's therapeutic abortion committee. The committee must decide whether or not continuation of the pregnancy "would or would be likely to" endanger the life or health of the female patient.

While some aspects of the conditions are decidedly clear, certain other aspects are not. The institutional requirements (the hospital board appointment of committee members, the composition of the committee, the qualifications of the practitioners performing therapeutic abortions, the stipulation that abortions may be performed only in accredited or approved hospitals) are explicitly defined. Conditions concerning the potential patients, such as a definition of the term "health," or specific limits on the gestation time frame, are not given attention. These patient-related issues are resolved in an individual manner by the therapeutic abortion committees when reviewing the applications brought before them.

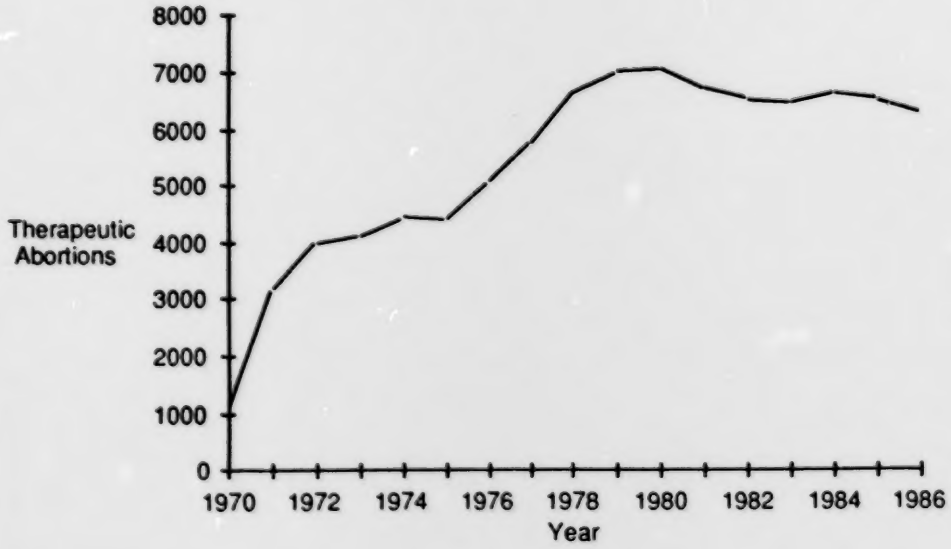
Abortions Performed In Alberta and Canadian Hospitals

In Alberta, each hospital which is qualified under the terms of the Criminal Code makes its own decision as to whether or not it will provide therapeutic abortion services. A list of hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees is provided in Appendix B of this report. In 1986, 6,295 abortions were performed in 21 of the 22 Alberta hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees. The 3.8% decrease from the 1985 level marks the largest annual decline in abortions since 1981. This downward trend in abortions began in 1981, and has continued into 1986, with only one upward turn which occurred in 1984.

Unlike Alberta, no well defined trend in the number of abortions performed can be determined from Canadian data over the last few years. The most recent abortion statistics for Canada are for 1985. In that year, legal abortions totalled 60,956, a 2.1% decline from the 1984 level. Although the rate of decrease in abortions in 1985 was larger in Canada (2.1%) than in Alberta (1.8%), Alberta's abortions, expressed as a percentage of those performed in Canada remained at the 1984 level of 10.7%.

Figure 1 illustrates the trend in total therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals from 1970 to the present. Table A-1 in Appendix A presents the data for both Alberta and Canada.

FIGURE 1
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA
1970-1986



Distribution of Hospitals and Therapeutic Abortions by Number of Abortions Performed

In 1986, eight hospitals performing over 200 abortions each, accounted for 95.1% of all therapeutic abortions in the province. Three of these hospitals, each performing over 400 abortions, accounted for 74.8% of total abortions in Alberta. Both of these statistics were marginally lower than the 1985 figures (95.3% and 75.9%, respectively), indicating a slight decrease in the concentration of abortions among Alberta hospitals and a reversal of recent trends. Until this year, the proportion of abortions carried out in hospitals performing over 200 each, had been increasing since 1981 and the proportion for hospitals performing over 400 each had been increasing since 1983.

Two large metropolitan hospitals carried out significantly fewer abortions in 1986 than they did in 1985. Some of the excess demand for therapeutic abortions was met by other metropolitan facilities and a number of smaller hospitals also increased their services. As a result, the percentage of hospitals which perform 20 or less abortions per year fell from 50.0% in 1985 to 36.3%, and the percentage of hospitals which perform 21 to 50 abortions per year, increased from 4.5% in 1985 to 18.2% in 1986.

The distribution and concentration of abortions across hospitals in Alberta in 1986 were similar to those of Canada in 1985. As of January 1, 1985, there were 253 Canadian hospitals with therapeutic abortion committees (22 in Alberta). Of the 244 hospitals which filed reports, 60.7% performed between 0 and 100 abortions (59.0% in Alberta), accounting for 5.4% of the total 60,956 cases in the country (3.2% in Alberta); 23.4% of the eligible Canadian hospitals each performed between 101 and 400 abortions (27.2% in Alberta), accounting for 20.1% of the Canadian total (22.0% in Alberta). The remaining 16.0% of Canadian hospitals with abortion committees (13.6% in Alberta), each performed over 400 abortions, representing 74.4% of all women receiving abortions in Canadian hospital (74.8% in Alberta). Further information regarding the distribution and concentration of abortions in Alberta hospitals in Alberta can be found in Table A-2 of Appendix A.

Abortions by Hospital Location

Together, Edmonton and Calgary have seven hospitals which perform therapeutic abortions. In 1986, these seven institutions carried out 5,247 legal abortions, accounting for 83.4% of all abortion cases in Alberta hospitals. For the second consecutive year, this percentage has fallen (83.8% in 1985 and 84.2% in 1984), reflecting a slight decline in the concentration of abortions in the metropolitan areas.

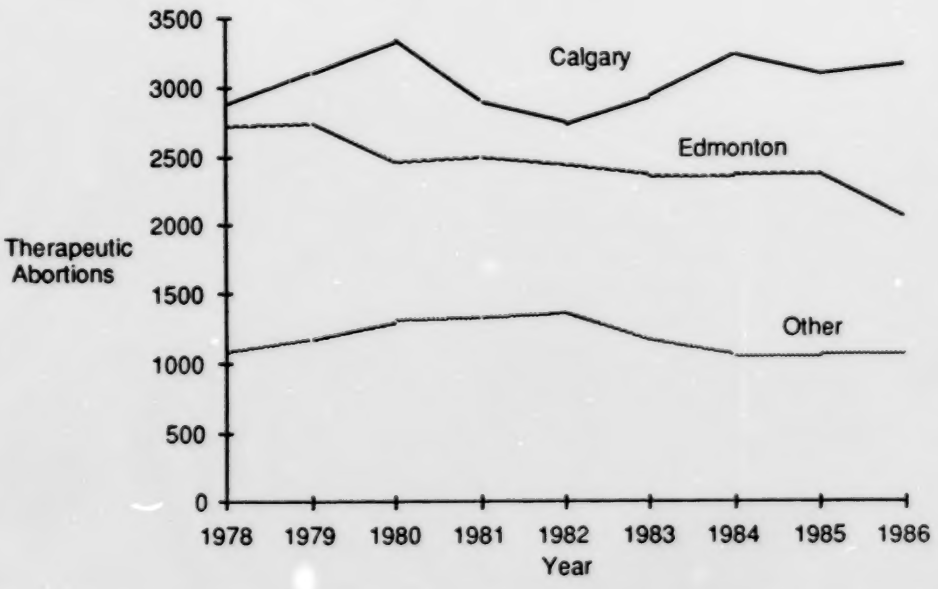
Since 1983, Calgary's proportion of total abortions has been on a general upward trend, rising from 41.9% in 1982 to 50.6% in 1986. Edmonton's proportion has been on an overall downward trend over this same period, from 37.2% in 1982 to 32.7% in 1986. There was a slight reversal of these trends for both cities in 1985 but they were firmly re-established in 1986.

The number of therapeutic abortions

performed in Calgary in 1986 was 3,188, a 2.7% increase from 1985. Edmonton's total for 1986 was 2,059, a 13.4% decline from the previous year. This 13.4% decrease was the most significant annual decline in the city's history of providing abortion services. It was, primarily, this substantial decline in the number of services offered by Edmonton hospitals which led to the decrease in the concentration of abortion procedures in the metropolitan areas.

Although the majority of Calgary and Edmonton cases were likely comprised of residents of the two cities, these hospitals served as referral centres for women originating from other parts of the province and country. Figure 2 presents an historical perspective of the proportion of total abortions performed in three areas of Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary and all other locations). Details regarding the distribution of therapeutic abortions by hospital location are presented in Table A-3 of Appendix A.

FIGURE 2
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION, ALBERTA 1978-1986

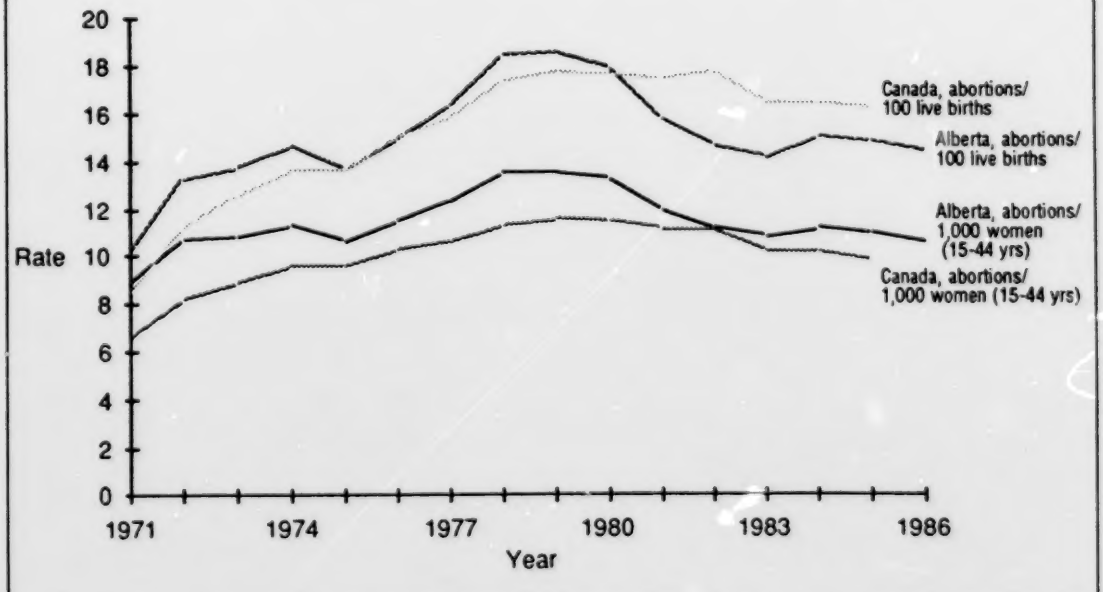


THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA

Two types of abortion rates were calculated: per 1,000 females age 15-44 years and per 100 live births. In 1986, the Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females (15-44 years) declined for the second consecutive year, from 11.2 in 1984 and 11.0 in 1985 to 10.5 in 1986, reaching the lowest point this rate has been since 1971. In 1985, both the female population, in child bearing years, and total abortions declined for the province of Alberta. With the decline in abortions significantly outweighing the population drop, the abortion rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 fell. In 1986, the female population (aged 15-44) rose. This, combined with a lower total number of abortions, led to an even more marked decline in the abortion rate per 1,000 females (15-44 years). The rate for Canada was 9.9 in 1985, down from 10.2 of the two previous years. The Alberta abortion rate per 100 live births was 14.4 in 1986, down from 14.9 of 1985 and 15.1 of 1984. The 1985 Canadian rate of 16.2 was slightly lower than the 16.5 of 1984 and 1983. Figure 3 presents trends in abortion rates for Alberta and Canada from 1971 to 1986.

It is interesting to note that although the Alberta abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years has been higher than the Canadian rate (since 1971), the provincial abortion rate per 100 live births has been lower than the corresponding Canadian rate (since 1981). This has occurred because the difference in the fertility rates (live births per 1,000 females 15-44 years) between Alberta and Canada, has been much larger than the difference in the abortion rates (in terms of 1,000 females 15-44 years). An algebraic expression in Endnote 'g' presents the relationship of two abortion rates to the fertility rate and contains an explanation for the difference between Alberta's and Canada's abortion rate per 100 live births.

FIGURE 3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA
1971-1986



SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS

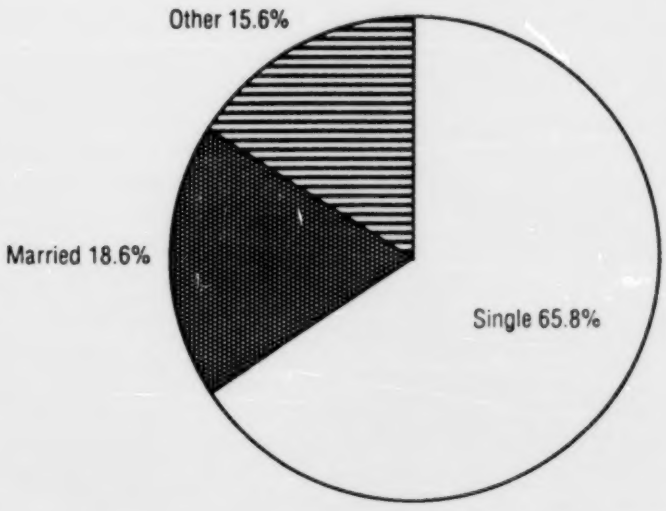
Residence

In 1986, Alberta residents obtained 6,237 therapeutic abortions, representing 99.07% of all cases in Alberta hospitals. Similarly, in 1985, Canadian residents accounted for 99.95% of all legal abortions performed in Canadian hospitals. Of the 58 non-residents of Alberta who received abortions in Alberta hospitals, 55 were residents of other Canadian provinces or territories and 3 were from out of the country. Alberta residents accounted for 4,311 days (98.90%) of the total 4,359 hospital days attributed to therapeutic abortions. Statistical detail is provided in Appendix A, Table A-4.

Marital Status

From 1981 to 1983, the proportion of total therapeutic abortions performed on single women followed a downward trend falling from 69.2% in 1981 to 64.2% in 1983. This trend did not continue into 1984 as the percentage of single women obtaining abortions in Alberta hospitals rose to 66.3%, falling again to the 1985 and 1986 level of 65.8%. The proportion of married women remained constant at 19.5% in 1984 and 1985, then decreased to 18.6% in 1986. Figure 4 presents the distribution of therapeutic abortions by marital status for Alberta in 1986. Historical data regarding this distribution are presented in Table A-6 of Appendix A.

FIGURE 4
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, ALBERTA 1986



Age

Since 1979, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on women less than 20 years of age in Alberta hospitals has been decreasing: 36.1% in 1979 to 24.1% in 1986. Women aged 20 to 24 years accounted 35.3% of total abortions in 1986, up slightly from the 1985 level of 34.6%. The mode of the distribution changed in 1980 from the 15 to 19 years of age category to the 20 to 24 years group and has since remained there.

Details are provided in Table A-6 of Appendix A. Figure 5 illustrates the age distribution of women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1986.

Teenage Abortions

In both Alberta and Canada, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed on teenage women declined since 1979. This year, 24.1% of all Alberta abortions were received by teens, down from 25.2% in 1985. The comparable figure for Canada was 22.9% in 1985, down from 23.6% in 1984. Of the 1,518 abortions received by Alberta teens, 96.2% were single women, 1.3% were married and 2.5% were either divorced, widowed, separated or living in common-law arrangements.

FIGURE 5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS, DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP, ALBERTA 1986

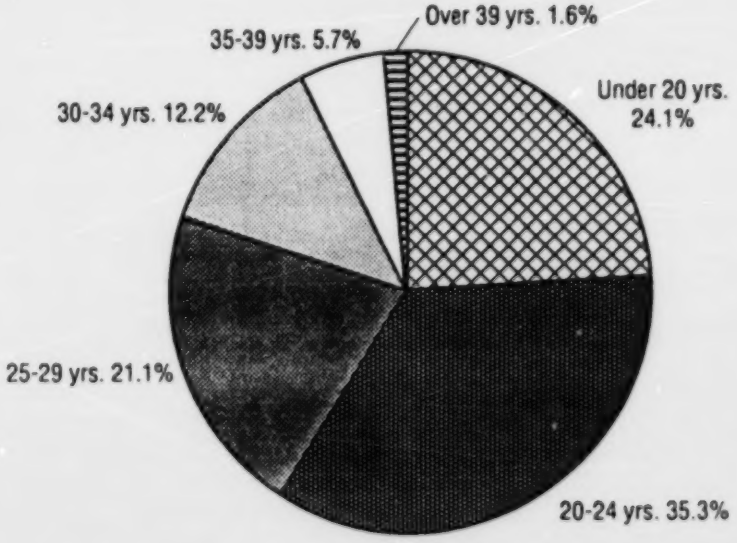


TABLE 1
TEENAGE ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, 1981 TO 1986

	ALBERTA[d]		CANADA[c]	
YEAR	THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS TO PATIENTS UNDER 20 YRS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ABORTIONS FOR ALL AGES	THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS TO PATIENTS UNDER 20 YRS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ABORTIONS FOR ALL AGES
		(%)		(%)
1986	**1,518**	**24.1**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1985	1,650	25.2	13,849	22.9
1984	1,696	25.4	14,598	23.6
1983	1,722	26.6	16,696	24.9
1982	1,880	28.6	17,647	26.8
1981	2,179	32.4	18,269	28.3

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1981 vol., p. 54; 1982 vol., page 90; 1983 and 1984 vol., pages 13 and 14, and 1985 vol., page 14.
d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS RELATING TO THE PREGNANCY RECORD OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS

Gestation Period

The gestation period, defined as the interval between the onset of the last menstrual period and the expulsion or removal of the fetus, is calculated as the difference between the date the pregnancy is terminated and the first day of the last normal menses and is expressed in completed weeks rather than in days. In cases where the normal menses is not known, gestation is clinically estimated. Since 1984, at least 90% of all therapeutic abortions in Alberta have been performed on patients having gestation periods of 12 weeks or less. This proportion has been over 80% since 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, the proportion of therapeutic abortions performed in the early stages of pregnancy (prior to 13 weeks gestation) increased steadily, from 83.2% in 1980 to 91.5% in 1985. The proportion performed prior to 9 weeks gestation also rose over these five years from 16.0% in 1980 to 29.4% in 1985. In 1986, however, both proportions fell to 90.1% and 25.4%, respectively.

The most recent Canadian data (1985) show these proportions continuing to increase since 1981: 88.9% of all legal abortions in Canadian hospitals were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation while 31.8% were carried out prior to 9 weeks gestation.

Considering 1986 therapeutic abortions in Alberta by marital status and age, 92.8% of all married women had their abortions early in pregnancy (prior to 13 weeks). Comparable figures for the single and other categories were 88.8% and 92.3% respectively. Historically (since 1972), single women and teenagers have had proportionately fewer abortions in early gestation stages than women in other marital and age categories. Tables A-7 and A-8 in Appendix A provide further details.

TABLE 2
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD[c] (1981 TO 1986 SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA[e]			CANADA[d]	
Gestation Period	1986	1985	1981	1985	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 9 wks.	25.4	29.4	16.5	31.8	25.5
9 - 12 wks.	64.7	62.1	67.2	57.1	61.1
13 - 16 wks.	7.3	6.3	12.7	7.7	9.9
17 - 20 wks.	2.6	2.0	3.5	3.0	3.2
21 wks. or Over	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
Under 13 wks.	90.1	91.5	83.7	88.9	86.6
13 wks or Over	9.9	8.5	16.3	11.1	13.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9[z]	99.9[z]

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
d Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 15.
e *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.
z Percentages do not sum to 100% due to the rounding procedure used.

Previous Deliveries

At least one previous delivery was reported by 41.6% of all abortion patients in Alberta, an increase over the 39.0% of 1985. Comparable Canadian figures for 1985 and 1984 were 38.4% and 38.0%, respectively.

Of all single women having abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1986, 20.7% reported having at least one previous delivery compared to 84.3% of all married women and 78.6% of all other women.

Generally, the older the patient, the greater the likelihood of a previous delivery. Of all patients 30 years of age or older, 75.2% had one or more previous deliveries as compared to 33.4% of women less than 30 years. Proportions for 1985 were 73.7% and 31.3%, respectively. Additional information is available in Table 3 and Table A-9 of Appendix A.

TABLE 3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1981 TO 1986

YEAR	ALBERTA[c]	CANADA[d]
	(%)	(%)
1986	41.6	n/a
1985	39.0	38.4
1984	38.0	38.0
1983	36.4	37.1
1982	34.2	36.1
1981	32.2	35.9

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 40.
d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

Previous Spontaneous or Induced Abortions

Previous spontaneous abortions were reported by 7.7% of all women receiving abortions in Alberta hospitals in 1986. The comparable figure for Canada in 1985 was 6.6%.

One or more previous induced abortions were reported by 18.5% of women having an abortion in Alberta in 1986. The Canadian figure was 20.3% for 1985. Although this proportion has been on an upward trend for a number of years (since 1982), for both Alberta and Canada, Alberta's figures have been lower than those for Canada.

Of all women having abortions who were separated, divorced, widowed or in common-law arrangements, 24.1% reported having had at least one previous induced abortion; 17.2% of all single women and 18.2% of all married women having abortions also reported previous induced abortions. Considering the therapeutic abortions by age group, women aged 30 to 34 years had the highest proportion, 26.3%, up from 20.8% in 1985. In 1985, however, women aged 25 to 29 years had the highest proportion of previous induced abortions (22.1%).

Further details regarding previous induced or spontaneous abortions are provided in Table 4 and Table A-10 of Appendix A.

TABLE 4
PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, WITH PREVIOUS INDUCED OR SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS, 1981 TO 1986

	Induced Abortions		Spontaneous Abortions	
Year	Alberta[d]	Canada[c]	Alberta[d]	Canada[c]
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
1986	**18.5**	**n/a**	**7.7**	**n/a**
1985	16.6	20.3	6.8	6.6
1984	16.6	19.5	6.9	6.5
1983	14.6	18.9	7.0	6.3
1982	13.5	17.5	5.8	5.6
1981	11.7	16.3	6.0	5.9

Refer to Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 40.
d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

SELECTED MEDICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION CASES

Days of Hospital Care

From 1980 to 1984 the proportion of women in Alberta receiving therapeutic abortions on an out-patient basis increased steadily, from 26.9% in 1979 to 42.2% in 1984. Although this figure fell to 39.0% in 1985, it resumed its upward trend in 1986 with 43.9%. As some hospitals in Alberta admit the women for one day of observation after the abortion is performed, the sum of out-patients and in-patients receiving one day of care was used to compare Alberta proportions to those of Canada. This sum increased steadily and relatively uninterrupted from 30.4% in 1972 to 91.9% in 1985 and 92.6% in 1986. The comparable figure for Canada in 1985 was 92.1%.

In 1985 and 1986, the average length of stay for women receiving abortions in Alberta hospitals (excluding out-patients) was 1.2 days, the lowest ever reported in Alberta for these women. Canada recorded 1.6 days in 1985 and 1984. Overall, both Canada and Alberta have had a falling average length of stay for abortion patients since 1972, with Alberta's declining faster than that of the nation. Length of stay is influenced by a number of variables which include the length of gestation, type of initial procedure, type and number of complications, whether sterilization is performed, the age of the woman and whether or not she has had previous deliveries. For the most part, these downward trends in average length of stay can be attributed to the increased proportion of abortions performed before 13 weeks gestation, when fewer serious complications (requiring hospitalization) occur.

Table 5 presents the distribution of days of hospital care and average length of stay for Alberta and Canada for selected years between 1981 and 1986. Additional information is presented in Appendix A, Table A-11.

TABLE 5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY DAYS OF HOSPITAL CARE AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (1981 TO 1986, SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA[e]			CANADA[c]	
Days of Hospital Care	1986	1985	1981	1985	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Out-Patients	43.9	39.0	37.4	76.9	64.2
In-Patients					
1 Day	48.7	52.9	41.3	15.2	20.9
2 Days	4.3	4.8	14.0	5.3	10.1
3 Days	1.8	1.8	4.1	1.5	2.8
4 or More Days	1.4	1.5	3.2	1.1	2.1
TOTAL	100.1[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1[z]
Average Length of Stay Excluding Out-Patients	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6[d]	1.7[d]

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 41.
d Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 46 and 1982 vol., p. 29.
e Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.

Surgical Procedures

Initial Surgical Procedures

Procedures undertaken to terminate pregnancy are referred to as initial surgical procedures. In 1986, the most frequently used initial procedure was Suction D&C, which accounted for 74.6% of all cases. All D&C procedures together accounted for 94.8% of initial procedures used. Although this is a slight decline from the 1985 figure of 95.8%, the ratio of D&C procedures to all others had been on an overall upward trend since 1972. This trend can be attributed to the increased percentage of abortions being performed prior to 13 weeks gestation, as initial D&C procedures are performed when pregnancy is terminated early in gestation.

Suction D&C and the combination procedure Suction-Surgical D&C have generally been favoured over Surgical D&C when curettage abortion procedures have been required. The proportion of women receiving abortions in Alberta by Saline and Urea injections and Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy procedures was relatively small. Details are provided in Table 6 and in Table A-12 of Appendix A.

TABLE 6
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES (1981 TO 1986, SELECTED YEARS)

	ALBERTA[d]			CANADA[c]	
Initial Surgical Procedures	1986	1985	1981	1985	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D&C	1.1	0.4	9.3	2.3	5.3
Suction D&C	74.6	77.0	73.4	92.7	85.5
Surgical & Suction D&C	19.1	18.4	8.2	n/a[e]	3.0
Hysterotomy	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
Hysterectomy	0.1	0.1	0.2	-	0.1
Saline/Saline D&C	-	-	0.5	1.9	2.3
Urea	0.5	0.4	2.6	0.4	1.0
Others	4.3	3.5	5.3	2.6	2.6
TOTAL	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.

c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 43 and 1981 vol., p. 70.

d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

e Due to changes in reporting procedures for Statistics Canada, all D&C procedures are coded as either surgical or suction. Combination procedures cannot be identified.

z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.

Subsequent Surgical Procedures

Subsequent surgical procedures may be performed when initial procedures result in complications. In 1986, 5.2% of all women having therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals underwent such procedures. This was the first increase in this proportion since 1982. Canadian figures, historically, have been significantly lower than those in Alberta with 1.4% of Canadian women having abortions requiring subsequent procedures in 1985.

Of all initial D&C procedures, 2.4% required subsequent methods, up from the 1.4% of 1985. No subsequent procedures were performed with initial procedures such as Hysterectomy and Hysterotomy.

The most frequent subsequent procedures performed were of the D&C type which collectively accounted for 56.4% of all subsequent procedures (Surgical D&C 36.6%; Suction D&C 18.0% and Surgical and Suction D&C 1.8%), an increase over the 1985 level of 50.6%. An explanation for the rather high proportion of the D&C type may be that a high percentage of abortions were performed prior to 13 weeks gestation (a period where D&C initial and subsequent procedures generally are carried out more quickly and effectively than other procedures). Details can be found in Table 7 and Tables A-13 and A-14 of Appendix A.

TABLE 7
THE PERCENTAGE OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS REQUIRING SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1981 TO 1986

ALBERTA[d]						CANADA[c]	
1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1985	1981
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
5.2	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.7	4.0	1.4	1.7

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 46 and 1981 vol., p. 62.
d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

Abortion Complications

The conditions of morbidity occurring as a result of pregnancy termination are defined as abortion complications. The following discussion relates only to data pertaining to the hospitalization period directly following the termination of pregnancies. In 1986, 6.0% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals had complications, the highest complication rate since the 6.2% of 1976. This 6.0% also marks the second consecutive annual increase in this rate (4.5% in 1985, up from 4.2% in 1984) which, since 1978, had been declining. The sharp increase in the complication rate in 1986 may, in part, be due to the decrease in the proportion of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks gestation (when the risk of complication is lower). It is also important to note that the types of additional complications were sufficiently serious to warrant subsequent procedures.

The complication which occurred most frequently in 1986 was retained products of conception which accounted for 60.2% of all complications. This was the first increase in this proportion since 1981. The shorter the gestation, the lower the probability that a retained product will occur. It follows then, that as the proportion of abortions performed prior to 13 weeks gestation decreases, the proportion of total complications which are retained products increases.

Complications involving laceration of the cervix accounted for 20.0% of all complications; haemorrhage accounted for 8.8%; infection for 7.3% perforation of the uterus for 2.4% and all other complications comprised the remaining 1.2%. Details in Table 8 and Tables A-15 and A-16 in Appendix A.

The complication rate in Alberta has always been significantly higher than the Canadian rate. The risk of complication is directly related to patient age, length of gestation, initial procedures and whether or not the woman has had previous deliveries. Alberta has had a larger proportion of patients in the higher risk groups (e.g., patients under 25 years of age gestation longer than 9 weeks and no previous deliveries). A more detailed explanation for the difference in complication rates between Alberta and Canada is presented in the Endnote 'h'.

TABLE 8
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS WITH AT LEAST ONE ABORTION COMPLICATION, 1981 TO 1986

ALBERTA[d,h]						CANADA[c,h]	
1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1985	1981
(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
6.0	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.6	2.1	2.3

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a, b and h.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 40 and 1981 vol., p. 136.
d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

Concurrent Sterilizations

In 1986, 610 women, representing 9.7% of all women having abortions in Alberta hospitals, were sterilized concurrently with an abortion procedure. This marks the third consecutive increase in both the absolute number as well as the proportion of all abortion patients undergoing concurrent sterilization (compared to 583 or 8.9% in 1985). The following procedures were used: tubal ligation (50.3%), tubal coagulation (15.4%), bilateral salpingectomy (1.8%), and hysterectomy (0.7%); the remainder (31.8%) were sterilized using other methods. Data regarding women sterilized concurrently with an abortion are presented in Table 9.

The sterilization decision relates directly to both the woman's age and whether or not she has had previous deliveries (i.e., generally, an older woman with several previous deliveries is more likely to choose sterilization than a younger woman with no previous deliveries). Of the 610 women sterilized with an abortion, 62.6% were 30 years of age or older. Patients under the age of 25 years accounted for 13.8% of all sterilizations. Regarding the 1986 age distribution of sterilized Alberta patients, the mode was the 30 to 34 years category.

Only 7.9% of all patients sterilized had no previous deliveries, down from 11.7% in 1985. Of those patients sterilized who did have previous deliveries, 74.6% reported having had two or more. Details are presented in Table A-17 of Appendix A.

TABLE 9
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION PATIENTS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, UNDERGOING CONCURRENT STERILIZATION, 1981 TO 1986

YEAR	ALBERTA[d]	CANADA[c]
	(%)	(%)
1986	**9.7**	**n/a**
1985	8.9	7.0
1984	8.1	7.3
1983	8.0	7.2
1982	8.4	7.6
1981	9.1	7.7

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, 1985 vol., p. 41.
d Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

Appendix A

STATISTICAL TABLES

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TABLE A-1
NUMBER OF THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS REPORTED BY HOSPITALS IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADA, 1970 TO 1986

	ALBERTA[c]			CANADA[b]	
YEAR	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	AS % OF CANADA	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE
		(%)	(%)		(%)
1986	**6,295**	**-3.8**	**n/a**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1985	6,544	-1.8	10.7	60,956	-2.1
1984	6,665	2.9	10.7	62,291	0.8
1983	6,475	-1.2	10.5	61,800	-6.8
1982	6,556	-2.6	9.9	66,319	1.8
1981	6,728	-5.3	10.3	65,127	-1.1
1980	7,108	1.0	10.8	65,855	1.1
1979	7,036	5.4	10.8	65,135	4.5
1978	6,677	15.8	10.7	62,351	8.2
1977	5,766	13.4	10.0	57,620	5.7
1976	5,083	15.2	9.3	54,536	10.4
1975	4,412	-1.2	8.9	49,390	2.5
1974	4,464	8.1	9.3	48,198	11.5
1973	4,130	3.2	9.6	43,245	11.2
1972	4,002	26.3	10.3	38,905	25.7
1971	3,169	170.4	10.2	30,949	176.3
1970	1,172	-	10.5	11,200	-

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.

b Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211; 1985 vol., p. 10. Includes both residents and non-residents of Canada who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals.

c Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1970 to 1986.

TABLE A-2
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED HOSPITALS AND THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RANGES, ALBERTA[a] 1981-1986

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
Hospitals with Abortion Committees	22	22	22	22	22	22
Abortion Range	Percent Distribution of Hospitals with Committees					
0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	-	4.6
1-20	31.8	45.5	36.4	36.4	27.3	18.2
21-50	18.2	4.5	13.6	18.2	18.2	27.2
51-100	4.5	4.5	4.5	-	[illegible]	4.6
101-200	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.6	13.6
201-400	22.7	22.7	22.7	18.2	13.6	13.6
Over 400	13.6	13.6	13.6	18.2	18.2	18.2
TOTAL	99.8[z]	99.8[z]	99.8[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Therapeutic Abortions	6,295	6,544	6,665	6,475	6,556	6,728
Abortion Range	Percent Distribution of Therapeutic Abortions					
1-20	0.6	1.7	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.5
21-50	1.7	0.4	1.2	1.7	1.7	3.0
51-100	0.9	0.8	1.0	-	1.6	0.8
101-200	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.4	6.5	7.1
201-400	20.3	19.4	20.2	17.2	14.5	13.1
Over 400	74.8	75.9	75.1	77.5	74.9	75.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.1[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

TABLE A-3
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BY HOSPITAL LOCATION, ALBERTA[a] 1978 TO 1986

	CALGARY			EDMONTON			OTHER		
YEAR	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	% OF ALL SERVICES	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	% OF ALL SERVICES	NUMBER	ANNUAL CHANGE	% OF ALL SERVICES
		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)		(%)	(%)
1986	**3,188**	**2.7**	**50.6[z]**	**2,059**	**-13.4**	**32.7[z]**	**1,048**	**-1.3**	**16.6[z]**
1985	3,105	-4.3	47.4[z]	2,377	0.3	36.3[z]	1,062	1.0	16.2[z]
1984	3,244	10.2	48.7[z]	2,370	0.3	35.6[z]	1,051	-10.1	15.8[z]
1983	2,943	7.1	45.4	2,363	-3.2	36.5	1,169	-14.5	18.1
1982	2,747	-5.1	41.9	2,442	-2.4	37.2	1,367	2.8	20.9
1981	2,896	-13.4	43.0	2,502	1.8	37.2	1,330	1.8	19.8
1980	3,343	7.4	47.0	2,458	-10.6	34.6	1,307	11.3	18.4
1979	3,114	8.4	44.3	2,748	0.9	39.0	1,174	8.5	16.7
1978	2,872	7.2	43.0	2,723	29.4	40.8	1,082	10.3	16.2

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1978 to 1986.

TABLE A-4
THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY PATIENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1981 TO 1986

Place of Residence	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Alberta	**99.07**	99.31	99.16	99.14	99.44	99.14
Other Provinces	**0.88**	0.67	0.83	0.80	0.55	0.82
Out of Canada	**0.05**	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.04
TOTAL	**100.00**	100.00	100.01[z]	100.00	100.00	100.00

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

TABLE A-5
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION RATES IN ALBERTA AND CANADA 1971 TO 1986[c]

	ALBERTA[e,f,g]		CANADA[d]	
YEAR	RATE PER 1,000 FEMALES 15-44 YEARS	RATE PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS	RATE PER 1,000 FEMALES 15-44 YEARS	RATE PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS
1986	**10.5**	**14.4**	**n/a**	**n/a**
1985	11.0	14.9	9.9	16.2
1984	11.2	15.1	10.2	16.5
1983	10.8	14.2	10.2	16.5
1982	11.2	14.7	11.1	17.8
1981	12.0	15.8	11.1	17.5
1980	13.3	17.9	11.5	17.7
1979	13.6	18.6	11.6	17.8
1978	13.6	18.5	11.3	17.4
1977	12.4	16.4	10.6	15.9
1976	11.5	15.0	10.3	15.1
1975	10.6	13.7	9.6	13.7
1974	11.3	14.7	9.6	13.7
1973	10.8	13.8	8.9	12.6
1972	10.7	13.3	8.2	11.2
1971	8.9	10.2	6.6	8.5

Refer to the Endnotes for notes c, d, e, f and g.
Note: Includes only Canadian women receiving therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals. Excludes women receiving legal abortions outside of Canada.

TABLE A-6
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1981 TO 1986

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
Total Therapeutic Abortions	6,295	6,544	6,665	6,475	6,556	6,728
Distribution by Marital Status	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Single	65.8	65.8	66.3	64.2	64.5	69.2
Married	18.6	19.5	19.5	19.7	19.2	17.5
Others[b]	15.6	14.7	14.2	16.1	16.3	13.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Distribution by Age Group	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 15	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0
15 - 19	23.5	24.3	24.7	25.7	27.8	31.4
20 - 24	35.3	34.6	35.3	37.1	36.7	36.4
25 - 29	21.1	21.7	21.5	20.1	19.3	17.3
30 - 34	12.2	11.7	11.1	10.3	9.5	8.9
35 - 39	5.7	5.4	4.8	4.6	4.4	3.6
40 - 44	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.4	1.3
45 or Over	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.1[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
b Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.

TABLE A-7
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY GESTATION PERIOD[b], 1982 TO 1984

	ALBERTA		
Gestation Period	1984	1983	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 9 wks.	27.6	23.5	17.9
9 - 12 wks.	62.3	65.8	67.8
13 - 16 wks.	7.9	8.7	11.7
17 - 20 wks.	2.1	1.9	2.4
21 wks. or Over	0.2	0.1	0.2
Under 13 wks.	89.9	89.3	85.7
13 wks. or Over	10.0	10.7	14.3
TOTAL	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
b Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1982 to 1984.

TABLE A-8
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS BEFORE THIRTEEN WEEKS OF GESTATION[c] IN ALBERTA[a] AND CANADIAN[b] HOSPITALS, PERCENTAGE BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, 1981 TO 1986

	ALBERTA[e]						CANADA[d]	
Marital Status/Age	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1985	1981
MARITAL STATUS								
Single	88.8	90.8	89.5	88.5	85.0	82.6	87.7	85.0
Married	92.8	93.9	92.2	90.8	88.7	87.2	92.3	90.7
Others' and Unknown	92.3	91.8	88.8	90.6	84.9	85.3	90.2	87.3
AGE								
Under 20 yrs.	85.7	87.5	87.0	87.3	82.2	80.3	82.9	81.0
20 - 9 yrs.	90.7	92.5	90.3	89.4	86.5	84.4	89.7	87.6
30 - 39 yrs.	94.3	94.3	93.4	92.6	89.8	88.9	93.5	92.2
40 yrs. and Over	88.0	93.5	87.5	89.2	84.4	91.7	91.9	89.8
TOTAL	90.1	91.5	89.9	89.3	85.7	83.7	89.0	86.6

Refer to the Endnotes for notes a and b.
c Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
d Source: Statistics Canada, *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211; 1985 vol., p. 17.
e Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1981 to 1986.
f Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.

TABLE A-9
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1986

	Previous Deliveries						
	None	1	2	3	4 or More	Not Stated	TOTAL
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	58.4	19.6	15.3	5.2	1.5	-	100.0
MARITAL STATUS							
Single	79.3	15.4	4.1	1.1	0.2	-	100.1[z]
Married	15.6	22.4	40.9	15.5	5.6	0.1	100.1[z]
Others[b]	21.3	33.6	32.1	10.5	2.3	0.1	99.9[z]
AGE GROUP							
Under 20	89.7	8.9	1.1	0.4	-	-	100.1[z]
20 - 24	63.9	23.2	10.3	2.5	0.1	-	100.0
25 - 29	44.5	24.8	21.8	7.0	1.8	0.1	100.0
30 - 34	28.2	22.1	33.9	12.8	3.0	-	100.0
35 - 39	19.2	18.1	38.7	13.9	10.0	-	99.9[z]
40 - 44	18.9	17.9	30.5	23.2	8.4	1.1	100.0
45 and Over	-	-	20.0	60.0	20.0	-	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a. b Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common-law.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

TABLE A-10
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUP AND PREVIOUS INDUCED ABORTIONS, 1986

	Previous Induced Abortions				
	None	1	2	3 or More	TOTAL
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL	81.5	15.7	2.2	0.5	99.9[z]
MARITAL STATUS					
Single	82.8	14.7	2.1	0.4	100.0
Married	81.8	15.7	2.0	0.5	100.0
Others[b]	75.9	20.0	3.1	1.0	100.0
AGE GROUP					
Under 20	92.4	7.4	0.3	-	100.1[z]
20 - 24	80.9	16.6	2.1	0.4	100.0
25 - 29	75.5	19.6	4.1	0.8	100.0
30 - 34	73.7	22.7	2.7	0.8	99.9[z]
35 - 39	76.9	17.5	3.9	1.7	100.0
40 - 44	85.3	11.6	2.1	1.1	100.1[z]
45 and Over	100.0	-	-	-	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
b Includes women who were separated, divorced, widowed or living common- law.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedures used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

TABLE A-11
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY DAYS OF HOSPITAL CARE AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY, 1982 TO 1984

	ALBERTA		
Days of Hospital Care	1984	1983	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Out-patients	42.2	39.4	39.3
In-patients			
1 Day	48.2	45.9	44.2
2 Days	5.7	9.6	11.1
3 Days	2.2	2.7	3.0
4 or More Days	1.7	2.4	2.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Length of Stay Excluding Out-patients	1.3	1.4	1.5

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1982 to 1984.

TABLE A-12
WOMEN RECEIVING THERAPEUTIC ABORTIONS IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES, 1982 TO 1984

	ALBERTA		
Initial Surgical Procedures	1984	1983	1982
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D&C	0.2	0.3	3.1
Suction D&C	76.6	79.2	78.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	18.7	15.3	12.1
Hysterotomy	0.3	0.4	0.3
Hysterectomy	0.1	0.1	0.1
Saline/Saline D&C	0.3	0.3	0.2
Urea	1.5	1.8	1.9
Others	2.3	2.6	4.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1982 to 1984.

TABLE A-13
SUBSEQUENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1986

Initial Procedure	TOTAL	Surgical D&C	Suction D&C	Surgical & Suction D&C	Hyster-otomy	Hyster-ectomy	Saline	Urea	Other
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Subsequent Procedure									
None Reported	94.8	93.0	98.4	94.8	100.0	100.0	66.7	45.5	37.3
Surgical D&C	1.9	1.4	0.4	0.9	-	-	33.3	42.4	27.6
Suction D&C	0.9	2.8	0.3	0.2	-	-	-	9.1	14.6
Surgical & Suction D&C	0.1	1.4	0.1	-	-	-	-	3.0	-
Hysterotomy	0.1	1.4	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-
Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2.2	-	0.7	4.1	-	-	-	-	20.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1[z]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

TABLE A-14
FREQUENT SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES, 1986

Subsequent Procedure	Percentage of Total Subsequent Procedures
	(%)
Surgical D&C	36.6
Suction D&C	18.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	1.8
Hysterotomy	1.5
Hysterectomy	-
Other	42.1
TOTAL	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

TABLE A-15
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY NATURE OF COMPLICATION AND PERIOD OF GESTATION, 1986

	Gestation Period[b]					
Nature of Complication	Under 9 Weeks	9 - 12 Weeks	13 - 16 Weeks	17 - 20 Weeks	21 Weeks Or Over	TOTAL
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Retained Products of Conception	27.0	31.9	83.9	92.5	50.0	60.2
Perforation of Uterus	5.4	4.4	-	1.1	-	2.4
Laceration of Cervix	40.5	38.1	5.1	-	-	20.0
Haemorrhage	10.8	10.0	8.5	5.4	50.0	8.8
Infection	10.8	13.8	2.5	1.1	-	7.3
Others	5.4	1.9	-	-	-	1.2
TOTAL	99.9[z]	100.1[z]	100.0	100.1[z]	100.0	99.9[z]

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
b Gestation periods are expressed as the number of completed weeks of pregnancy.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

TABLE A-16
THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMPLICATIONS TREATED IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF INITIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURE, 1986

Initial Surgical Procedure	Nature of Complication						
	Retained Products Of Conception	Laceration Of Cervix	Haemorrhage	Perforated Uterus	Infection	Others	TOTAL
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Surgical D&C	71.4	14.3	-	14.3	-	-	100.0
Suction D&C	33.9	26.4	14.0	5.0	17.4	3.3	100.0
Surgical & Suction D&C	17.6	64.9	5.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	100.1[z]
Hysterotomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hysterectomy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saline/Saline D&C	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
Urea	94.7	-	5.3	-	-	-	100.0
Other	89.9	0.5	7.4	-	2.1	-	99.9[z]
TOTAL	60.2	20.0	8.8	2.4	7.3	1.2	99.9[z]

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

TABLE A-17
WOMEN STERILIZED FOLLOWING ABORTION IN ALBERTA[a] HOSPITALS, DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF PREVIOUS DELIVERIES, 1986

	Number of Previous Deliveries						
Age Group	0	1	2	3	4 Or More	Not Stated	All Patients
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Under 20	2.1	0.9	0.4	2.3	-	-	1.0
20-24	4.2	17.0	16.5	9.2	1.9	-	12.8
25-29	16.7	26.4	20.9	26.9	28.8	100.0	23.6
30-34	27.1	30.2	30.8	33.1	19.2	-	29.8
35-39	39.6	18.9	24.5	16.9	42.3	-	24.6
40-44	10.4	6.6	7.0	10.8	5.8	-	7.9
45 & Over	-	-	-	0.8	1.9	-	0.3
TOTAL	100.1[z]	100.0	100.1[z]	100.0	99.9[z]	100.0	100.0

Refer to the Endnotes for note a.
z Percentages do not sum to 100.0% due to the rounding procedure used.
Source: *Alberta Therapeutic Abortion File*, 1986.

Appendix B

ALBERTA HOSPITALS WITH THERAPEUTIC ABORTION COMMITTEES

As of January 1, 1986

Brooks Health Centre
Calgary General
Foothills Provincial General, Calgary
Holy Cross, Calgary
Rockyview General, Calgary
Drumheller General
Charles Camsell, Edmonton
Royal Alexandra, Edmonton
University of Alberta, Edmonton
Fort Saskatchewan General
Grande Prairie General
High Prairie Regional Health Complex
Hinton General
Innisfail Health Care Centre
Archer Memorial, Lamont
Lethbridge Regional (General Centre)
Medicine Hat and District (General Centre)
Peace River Municipal
Provost Municipal Health Care Centre
Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre
Stettler General
Wetaskiwin General

a Includes both residents and non-residents of Alberta who received therapeutic abortions in Alberta hospitals.

b Includes only Canadian women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals and for whom selected demographic and medical items of information were available.

c Rates were derived using data which includes therapeutic abortions performed on women of all ages, that is, including patients younger than 15 and older than 44 years of age.

d Source: *Statistics Canada, Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211; Canadian abortion rates for 1971 to 1985, 1985 vol., p. 10.

e The number of therapeutic abortions received by Alberta women in Canadian hospitals from 1971 to 1985 are those reported by Statistics Canada in *Therapeutic Abortions*, Catalogue 82-211, for 1971 to 1977, 1981 vol., p. 111, for 1978 to 1982, 1982 vol., p. 15, and for 1983 to 1985, 1985 vol., p. 11. These figures are used to derive the province's rates. The rates, however, have been recalculated for 1971 to 1985 using final and revised population and live births data from the following sources:

Population: Statistics Canada, *Population, Revised Annual Estimates of Population by Sex and Age for Canada and the Provinces*, 1971 to 1976, Catalogue 91-518; *Final Intercensal Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age, Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1977 to 1981*, 1977 to 1981 revised intercensal estimates based on the 1981 Census of Canada. *Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of Growth for Canada and the Provinces*, Catalogue 91-210, June 1, 1982 and 1983, vol. 1, p. 42; 1984, vol 2, pp. 32 and 33 and 1985, vol. 3, pp. 38 and 39.

Live Births: Statistics Canada, *Vital Statistics, Volume 1, Births and Deaths*, Catalogue 84-204, 1971 to 1976 final, 1976 vol., p. 2; 1977 and 1978 final, 1978 vol., p. 2; 1979 final, 1979 vol., p. 2; 1980 final, 1980 vol., p. 2; 1979 final, 1979 vol., p. 2; 1980 final, 1980 vol., p. 2; 1981 final, 1982 vol., p. 2; 1982 final and 1983 final, 1983 vol., p. 2, 1984 final, 1984 vol., p. 3 and 1985 final, 1985 vol., p. 3.

f The 1986 rates are calculated using the total number of therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta hospitals in 1986, including therapeutic abortions performed for non-residents of the province. Alberta women who received therapeutic abortions in Canadian hospitals outside of Alberta are not included. The sources of population and live birth data are:

Population: Statistics Canada, *Summary Tabulations Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1986 Census of Canada*, Table DM86A01.

Live Births: *Vital Statistics Annual Review 1986*, pp. 9.

g Historically, both the therapeutic abortion rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years (TA/POP) and the fertility rate (FR), defined here as live births (LB) per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44 years, have been higher in Alberta than in Canada. Since 1981, the difference between the fertility rates of Alberta and Canada has been significantly greater than the difference between the abortion rates. Therefore, the abortion rate per 100 live births (TA/100LB) has been lower in Alberta than in Canada for the past five years. The algebraic expression relating the two abortions rates and the fertility rate is as follows:

$$\frac{TA}{100LB} = \frac{TA}{(FR)POP(1/100)} = \frac{TA/POP}{FR(1/100)}$$